

REMARKS

Claims 3-21 are pending in the application, with claims 3 and 9 amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 20 and 21 are added. The Office Action rejected pending claims 3-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,887,739 to Prevot ("Prevot") in view of U.S. Patent 5,908,128 to Krishnakumar ("Krishnakumar"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and in light of the following comments, request that the rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Krishnakumar nor Prevot discloses the "plurality of peripheral vertically-spaced grooves" required by independent claim 3. Therefore, the combination of Prevot and Krishnakumar cannot render claim 3 and its dependent claims, 4-8 and 20, obvious.

Claim 9 includes the feature of heating the filled and capped container at a temperature sufficient to pasteurize a food product without subjecting the base to undesirable distortion. Claim 9 also includes the feature of the sidewall being stiffened against distortion. It is respectfully submitted that Krishnakumar does not disclose these features.

As neither Prevot nor Krishnakumar teach or suggest the features of claims 9-19, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of these references cannot render claims 9-19 obvious.

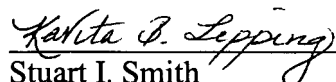
Summary

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance indicating the allowability of claims 3-21

and that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

October 24, 2005



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